

**Title of Article:** The Management of Ethno nationalism in Nigeria: An Assessment of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra

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**Abstract:** Nigeria's return to democratic dispensation in 1999 created an environment for ventilation of suppressed grievances under military administration. The implication of this is the intensification of ethno-nationalism by so many sub groups where perception marginalization and deprivation within the Nigerian state exists. One of the prominent agitations is the renewed demand for Biafra spearheaded by the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB). The group which came into being in 1999 and led by an Indian trained layer Chief Ralph Uwazurike did not initially attract state attention, but given the audacity with which the group carried its activities resulted in phenomenally growth of the organization, spreading across the nooks and crannies of south east zone of the country and beyond. The success of MASSOB opened the space for emergence of other groups with varying strategies for the actualization of Biafran republic. The popularity of these groups has created a huge problem for state manager and security operatives to contend with groups and their activities which is directly challenging the legitimacy of the Nigerian state. The paper examines this agitation and the activities of groups promoting them as well as the strategies the state has adopted in managing the issue. It also attempts to analyze the impact of government response on the activities of these groups demanding for Biafra and its implications for inter-ethnic relations and nation building.

